

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-63 were previously subject to a restriction requirement and/or election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Applicants elected the following species:

- a. 2-ethylhexyl acrylate as the hydrophobic monomer
- b. acrylic acid as the hydrophilic monomer
- c. diacetone acrylamide as the monomer having aldehyde or ketone group
- d. an allyl amine salt of dodecylbenzene sulfonate as the polymerizable surfactant
- e. adipic acid dihydrazide as the polyhydrazide crosslinking agent.

The Examiner has requested clarification as to the claims and the elected species. While Applicants have elected a species as requested in the previous Office Action, Applicants are not required to amend the claims to so limit the invention at this juncture. The election of species pursuant to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 is provided as a means to facilitate searching of the prior art by the Examiner in the determination of patentable subject matter in the instant invention.

Claims 11, 12, 21, 22, 24, 27-40, 46-48, and 55-63 have been previously cancelled as being directed to a non-elected species. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications on the remaining species.

Claims 1-10, 13-20, 23, 25, 26, 41-45, and 49-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhau *et al.* (U.S. 6,242,515) in view of Phan *et al.* (U.S. 5,928,783). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention teaches a removable, water-whitening resistant pressure sensitive adhesive comprising a crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer as described in Claim 1. The species elected pursuant to the restriction requirement employs a. 2-ethylhexyl acrylate as the hydrophobic monomer; b. acrylic acid as the hydrophilic monomer; c. diacetone acrylamide as the monomer having aldehyde or ketone group; d.

an allyl amine salt of dodecylbenzene sulfonate as the polymerizable surfactant; and e adipic acid dihydrazide as a polyhydrazide crosslinking agent.

Zhau *et al.* teach polymer dispersions prepared using emulsion polymerization. Zhau do not teach or suggest using a polymerizable surfactant in the process, nor does Zhao teach or suggest using an allyl amine salt of dodecylbenzene sulfate for any purpose. Further, Zhao does not teach or suggest a crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer having a mean particle size of less than about 400 nm as provided by Applicants' invention.

The Examiner has stated in the Office Action mailed November 18, 2005, that the difference between the prior art and the present invention is that the prior art does not teach the use of polymerizable emulsifiers in the copolymer composition.

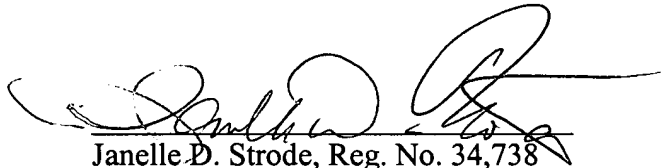
Phan *et al.* teach pressure sensitive adhesive compositions prepared using a polymerizable surfactant with a terminal allyl amine moiety. Phan does not teach or suggest preparing a pressure sensitive adhesive using a polyhydrazide crosslinking reagent. Further, Phan does not teach or suggest a pressure sensitive adhesive composed of an acrylic crosslinked aqueous emulsion polymer having a mean particle size of less than about 400 nm as provided by Applicants' invention.

Zhau and Phan, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the pressure sensitive adhesives of Applicants' invention. Further, there is no motivation in either reference to combine same. In particular, Phan does not teach the use of a polyhydrazide crosslinking agent, nor why such a crosslinking agent would be necessary. Applicants maintain there is no motivation to combine Zhao and Phan. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSIONS

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
LATHROP & GAGE L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janelle D. Strode", is written over a horizontal line.

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